

Senators John McCain and Russell Feingold includes several critical steps to strengthen the FEC, strengthening the agency's ability to stop improper practices and allowing random audits of campaigns.

The details of my budget requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Executive Order 13041—Further Amendment to Executive Order 13010, as Amended

April 3, 1997

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to add the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and the Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy to the Principals Committee of the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection ("Commission") and to extend the life of the Commission for an additional 90 days, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13010, as amended, is further amended by adding (1) "(xii) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council; and (xiii) Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy." to section 2 of that order and (2) "and 90 days" after "1 year" in section 6(f) of that order.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
April 3, 1997.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:11 a.m., April 7, 1997]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 8, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 8.

Remarks Welcoming Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

April 8, 1997

Prime Minister and Mrs. Chretien, members of the Canadian delegation, distinguished guests, it is a great honor and personal pleasure for me to welcome to Washington the Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chretien, leader of a land of great beauty and bounty and a great and good people.

When Hillary and I visited Ottawa in 1995, the Prime Minister and the Canadian people made us feel as if we were family. The personal working relationship I have established with the Prime Minister for nearly 4 years now has made us good friends.

Today we celebrate one of history's most remarkable partnerships, for if nature has made us neighbors, we are friends and allies by choice. The close cooperation between our two nations should be a model for the world in the 21st century. Every day, 250,000 people and nearly \$1 billion in trade cross our border. From the snowy Yukon to the shores of eastern Maine, our border does not divide our people; it joins us as partners and friends, with more and better jobs, cleaner air and water, the comforting knowledge that our freedom is jointly guarded and defended. Together we are working to shape the force of change to serve our region and our world, expanding trade throughout the Americas, exploring the mysteries of space, speaking out for freedom, and standing up for peace from Bosnia to Haiti.

In a world where suffering too often results because people cannot live with others different from themselves, Canada's compassionate, tolerant society inspires us all with hope.

A Canadian Ambassador to Washington once said that summits between our nations are a time to set the beacon jointly. Under your wise leadership, Mr. Prime Minister, relations between the United States and Canada have never been closer or more constructive. As we stand on the threshold of a new millennium, let us raise our beacon high. Let us build a future of peace and prosperity, of freedom and dignity for our continent and beyond.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where Prime Minister Chretien was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Chretien's wife, Aline.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Chretien and an Exchange With Reporters

April 8, 1997

The President. Good morning, everybody. I'm delighted to have the Prime Minister here, and we're just about to start a conversation about NATO expansion, which is something of importance to both of us, and about some trade issues and a number of other matters. We have a lot of good agreements that we're going to have signed during this trip, so we're excited about that.

And we're going to have a press conference afterwards, so we'll be able to answer questions about it all.

Chemical Weapons Convention

Q. Jesse Helms called the Chemical Weapons Convention today destructive and defective and dangerous. The hearing is not off to a good start.

The President. Well, I know he's not for it. All I want to do is try to get it on the floor of the Senate and persuade two-thirds of the Senators to be for it.

I think it's obvious that it's the right thing to do for the world and critical for America's leadership that we do it. I do not believe that all those military leaders who were here with us earlier this week and the Republican leaders, including Senator Kassebaum Baker and former Secretary of State Jim Baker, would do something that was dangerous for America. I think it's critically important for America.

If we don't ratify it, then the rest of the world will be compelled to treat us like they treat the rogue states, and it will—just basically to ostracize us and impose trade sanctions on our chemical companies. And we'll

deserve it if we don't ratify it, because we won't be good citizens in the world.

Q. Will you speak with Senator Helms between now and—

The President. We're working with him. We've worked hard with him and we've worked through a lot of his objections and we'll keep working. But I'm going to focus hard on trying to—not only to persuade him but we have to have 67 votes. We've got to get it out of the committee, and then we've got to have 67 votes. That's what we've got to do. We're going to try to do it.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Any further words—[inaudible]—Prime Minister Netanyahu?

The President. No, I don't have anything to add to what I said yesterday. We had a long, thorough, very frank conversation. I want these parties to do what they have to do to get this process up and going again. We've got to have an atmosphere of zero tolerance for terror, but we also have to have the kind of confidence building necessary to make peace. And he's got some good ideas and I think we have some good ideas and we want to talk to the Palestinians this week and see if we can get this going again. But the parties have got to do what it takes to get it going, and I think if we work together we can do it.

Q. Did you ask him to stop building at Har Homa?

The President. I don't want to say any more about what I did or didn't say.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. The incident in Hebron? Well, all those things are troubling. But the main thing is we can't let them get in the way of moving the path toward peace forward. That's the ultimate resolution of all these things. We've just got to keep going. They have to decide they're going to keep going, and they've got to do it.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

The President. Let me say again how pleased I am to have the Prime Minister here. We're going to have a chance to talk about our mutual interests in NATO expansion, in Bosnia, in Haiti, and a number of